

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 06249 100933Z

14

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SS-15 ERDA-05 L-03

SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 /090 W

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R 100815Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF GENERAL
ATOMIC RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: A. STATE 296392, B. STATE 266974

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE CORRECT, IN OUR VIEW, IN THEIR BELIEF THAT BDG OFFICIALS, BOTH WITHIN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FULLY UNDERSTAND USG POSITION CONCERNING NECESSITY OF CONCLUDING US-BANGLADESH BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND BDG ACTION TOWARD ADHERENCE TO NPT AS CONDITIONS FOR USG APPROVAL OF EXPORT SALE OF GENERAL ATOMIC REACTOR. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT BDG OFFICIALS ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS REACTOR PURCHASE IN LIGHT OF THE NPT ADHERENCE REQUIREMENT.

2. ON NOVEMBER 2, 1976, ECON AND POL COUNSELORS CALLED JOINTLY ON MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMERICAS DESK OFFICER AND, DRAWING ON REF B, REVIEWED US POSITION WITH HIM. WE FOLLOWED UP MEETING WITH LETTER, AGAIN BASED ON REF B, WITH COPY TO DR. INNAS ALI. (FOR RECORD, WE ARE POUCHING COPY TO NEA/PAB.) TO ENSURE THERE ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING, WE WILL DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE, AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL A TO SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL, WITH COPY TO DR. ALI.

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PAGE 02 DACCA 06249 100933Z

3. IN OUR OPINION, BANGLADESH IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO BE AN EARLY ADHERENT TO THE NPT. CONSIDERATIONS BEARING ON BDG ATTITUDE INCLUDE FACT THAT NO SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRY IS ADHERENT; AND THAT BDG HAS YET TO DECIDE ON GENERAL APPROACH TO NUMEROUS UN AND OTHER TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS, INCLUDING MANY TO WHICH PAKISTAN WAS A PARTY BEFORE 1971 INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH. WE DOUBT ATOMIC ENERGY SCIENTISTS WILL OVERCOME MFA BROAD CONCERNS ON THIS ISSUE BY END-DECEMBER. WE WILL, HOWEVER, FOLLOW UP WITH CALLS AT MFA AND ON DR. INNAS ALI (AT PRESENT OUT OF DACCA) AND REPORT ANY INDICATION OF MORE RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD NPT ADHERENCE.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA06249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0678
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761255/aaaabvmt.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 296392, 76 STATE 266974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF GENERAL ATOMIC RESEARCH REACTOR
TAGS: TECH, PARM, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006